



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Auditor-Controller  
Director of Health Services

At its meeting held May 27, 2003, the Board took the following action:

25

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“A study conducted by the American Cancer Society states that overweight and obesity accounts for 20 percent of cancer in women and 14 percent in men. In 2002, approximately 65 percent of American adults were overweight or obese, and 31 percent were above obese according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Obesity and inactivity often contribute to diabetes. UCLA Center for Health Policy’s recent survey reported that one in 16 California adults, 1.4 million people have diabetes. An estimated 90,000 Americans die each year of cancer caused primarily by obesity and excess weight.

“To address this problem in Los Angeles County, the Public Health Commission recommends the appointment of a task force to address the issue of overweight and obesity.”

Supervisor Antonovich made a motion that the Board take the following actions:

1. Instruct the Directors of Health Services and Public Health, in close consultation with the Public Health Commission and the Los Angeles County Task Force on Nutrition to:
  - a. Convene and participate in an Overweight and Obesity Task Force to address the issue of overweight and obesity, and to include representatives from community-based organizations, school nurses and nutritionists;

(Continued on Page 2)

- b. Guide and assist the Task Force in developing a broad-based effort to accurately inform people about overweight and obesity causing cancer and other acute care illnesses, including nutrition information;
  - c. Report back to the Board in 30 days at the meeting of June 24, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. on the progress of the Task Force; and
2. Instruct the Auditor-Controller, upon consultation with Task Force, to insert a notice in employee paychecks for three months about statistics or information regarding overweight and obesity causing cancer and other acute care illnesses.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

“In reference to Supervisor Antonovich’s motion to establish a Task Force on Overweight and Obesity, last August the Board received the report of the Los Angeles County Task Force on Children and Youth Physical Fitness, ‘Paving the Way for Physically Fit and Healthy Children.’ The Board established an interdepartmental working group, under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer, to identify and develop the required resources to carry out the Task Force recommendations.

“While the previous Task Force focused on children and youth, Supervisor Antonovich’s motion focuses on the relationship between obesity and chronic diseases among adults. However, many of the recommendations now under development by the County working group include community initiatives that will benefit both children and adults. For this reason, rather than create a new body, it is appropriate to ask the existing County working group to expand its scope of activities to include adults.”

Therefore, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a suggestion that Supervisor Antonovich’s motion be amended to ask the existing County working group on nutrition and fitness, under the direction of the Director of Health Services’ Physical Fitness Working Group, to expand its scope of work to address the issues identified in Supervisor Antonovich’s motion. Supervisor Antonovich accepted Supervisor Yaroslavsky’s amendment.

(Continued on Page 3)

25 (Continued)

On motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Directors of Health Services and Public Health, in close consultation with the Physical Fitness Working Group, were instructed to:

1. Address the issue of overweight and obesity;
2. Develop a broad-based effort to accurately inform people about overweight and obesity causing cancer and other acute care illnesses, including nutrition information; and
3. Report back to the Board at the meeting of June 24, 2003 at 11:00 a.m.

In addition, the Auditor-Controller, upon consultation with the Directors of Health Services and Public Health's Physical Fitness Working Group, was instructed to insert a notice in employee paychecks for three months about statistics or information regarding overweight and obesity causing cancer and other acute care illnesses.

8052703-25

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor  
Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Director of Public Health